

tions. The old ones meanwhile had never ceased to ring their alarm note, and angrily tap the neighbouring trees ; but before we lost sight of the well-known spot, I was pleased to see the mother boldly re-enter her violated abode to comfort her astonished but undaunted offspring, who suffered, I am inclined to believe, no further inconvenience from our visit beyond a slight increase of air and light into their apartment.

Some days afterwards I returned to the very place in company with Mr. Wolley, who was desirous of visiting this wonderful Woodpecker locality, where the tall poplars have been bored on all sides during so many succeeding years. The broken ladder lay at the foot of the tree, which itself bore marks of the recent axe, but no young ones looked out upon the intruder, no old ones rang out the alarm note from amongst the neighbouring trees. The family had gone, and the forest was silent.

London, February 26, 1859.

XXVII.—*Notes on the Nesting of a pair of Eagle Owls (Bubo maximus) in confinement.* By EDWARD FOUNTAINE.

A PAIR of Eagle Owls (*Bubo maximus*) have bred with me in confinement during eleven successive years.

The first nest was made in May 1849 ; in it were laid three eggs, the first on April 13th ; three young birds were hatched and all reared.

The second nest was made in March 1850 ; there were three eggs laid, the first on the 10th ; two young birds were hatched, which were sent to Mr. J. H. Gurney ; one egg was bad.

The third nest was in February 1851 ; there were three eggs laid, the first was laid on the 10th ; three young birds were hatched and all reared.

The fourth nest was in February 1852 ; three eggs were laid, the first was laid on the 10th ; three young birds were hatched and all reared.

The fifth nest was in February 1853 ; three eggs were laid, the first was laid on the 14th ; three young birds were hatched and all reared.

The sixth nest was in February 1854 ; three eggs were laid,

the first was laid on the 20th ; three young birds were hatched and all reared.

The seventh nest was in February 1855 ; three eggs were laid, the first was laid on the 3rd ; all the eggs were destroyed, the weather being so severe. Another nest was made of three eggs in the end of the month, but, the weather still being exceedingly cold, that nest was also destroyed ; no young ones were hatched that year.

The eighth nest was in January 1856 ; three eggs were laid, the first was laid on the 12th ; all the eggs were destroyed, the weather being very cold. Another nest was made in February ; the first egg was laid on the 10th ; three young birds were hatched and all reared.

The ninth nest was in January 1857 ; two eggs were laid ; the first was laid somewhere at the end of the month, but was destroyed, the weather being too cold. Another nest was made in February ; it had two eggs ; both birds were hatched and both reared.

The tenth nest was in January 1858 ; two eggs were laid, and both destroyed, the weather being too cold. Another was made in February ; it had two eggs ; both birds were hatched and both reared.

The eleventh nest was in February 1859 ; two eggs were laid, the first was laid on the 10th. I came home and found one bird dead in the egg, the other egg was rotten. Another nest was made in April ; the first egg was laid on the 13th, another on the 17th, in which state I left them, and having since been absent from home, I cannot say any more at present. I have proved that many of the first nests were destroyed, not from the coldness of the weather, but because the young birds were egg-bound ; and when I was myself from home, there was no one who understood how to take them out of the shell. I could have saved the young bird this year if I had been at home. I found on one occasion a young bird egg-bound, which it took me three days to take from the shell. This bird lived and was brought up.

Three pairs of the Owls which I brought up in confinement have at different times laid eggs and sat on them, but the eggs have

never proved good. My original hen bird had been kept twenty years in confinement before I had her; the male bird was said to be only a year old when it came to me. The only nest made by the old Owls is a shallow hole scratched in the earth at the bottom of the cage. I have introduced a lining of short straw into the hole after the first egg is laid. The earth is scratched away from the hole by both birds; but the cock commences the operation, and performs the greater part of it. The period of incubation is thirty days, and one week usually elapses in addition between hatching the first egg and the last. The Owls are kept in a cage about eight feet square and about the same in height, and are fed on rats, rabbits, and birds.

Easton, Norfolk, May 7th, 1859.

XXVIII.—*Characters of an undescribed Species of Hawk from New Caledonia.* By PHILIP LUTLEY SCLATER.

(Plate VIII.)

MR. GURNEY has kindly entrusted to me for examination some specimens of Rapacious Birds which he has lately acquired from New Caledonia. Amongst them is an example of a species of Hawk apparently hitherto unnoticed, and which I have little hesitation in considering as new. Its simple style of coloration has induced me to propose to call it

ACCIPITER HAPLOCHROUS. (Plate VIII.)

Saturate schistaceus, capite et dorso medio nigricantioribus: nuchæ plumis intus albis: rectricum pogoniis internis pallidè schistaceis, vittis numerosis nigricantibus subobsoletè transfasciatis: abdomine toto a pectore medio cum crisso, tibiis et alarum tectricibus inferioribus albis: pectore medio et remigum pogoniis internis subtus albis, nigro transversim lineatis: rostro plumbescenti-nigro; pedibus auran-
tatis, unguibus nigris: long. tota 14·5, alæ 9·3, caudæ 6·6, tarsi 2·6.

Hab. in ins. Novâ Caledoniâ.

The single specimen of this bird sent is labelled as a female. It was killed on the island "Nu," Port de France, New Caledonia, in April 1858, and appears to have been prepared by Mr. John Macgillivray.

The nearest ally of this fine species that I am acquainted with